The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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STEEL STRIKE ISSUE CLEARLY PRESENTED

Chicago, Oct. 18.—Matthew Woll, a vice president of the A. F. of L. and editor of the American Photo Engraver, presents the one issue involved in the steel strike in the last issue of that magazine. He says:

"Blind, brutal and arrogant selfishness has never been more damningly indicted than by the exhibition of Judge Gary, his associates and followers in the utter and wanton disregard of the rights and interests of the steel workers of America. The issue in the nation-wide strike now in progress is clear and definite and cannot be perverted into a contest of personalities, however assiduously the bourgeoise class may apply itself to this task.

"What the steel workers desire in this contest is the complete recognition and full observance of their right to organize, their right to bargain collectively for the sale of their services and to be accorded an impelling voice in determining the conditions under which they shall labor. That is the issue—nothing more and nothing less.

"Of course, Judge Gary and his cohorts have cleverly endeavored to becloud the issue by the injection of personal attacks on some of the leaders of the striking steel workers, hoping thereby to confuse the general public and weaken the confidence of the strikers in their leaders. As workers, we are not concerned with the economic views which may have been entertained by William Z. Foster a number of years past. We know that this strike has been authorized and is being conducted jointly by 24 international unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. As long as William Z. Foster will carry out the instructions and policies of these organizations, so long will he be retained in his present position.

"Neither will the workers be swerved from their determined purpose to establish their rights as free men on the industrial field by the cry of bolshevism and sovietism. To the contrary, there is no set of men in America today that is doing more to promote bolshevism, sovietism and anarchy than is Judge Gary and men of his type."

STEEL STRIKERS DEFENDED.

Girard, Pa., Oct. 18.—The steel trust is circulating a denunciation of the steel strike and Secretary Foster, of the strikers' committee, by the Rev. Devlin, of South Pittsburg, but the trust has ignored this public statement by the Rev. Kirby, of the same denomination:

"The steel strike is a continuation of the struggle of the masses of the common people against autocracy. The world war decided the people's rights to political autocracy, but the people have yet to win the economic victory.

"There is no doubt that the underlying causes of militarism in Europe are existing in large corporations today, namely, repression of popular expression. The strike proves that the world war has proved that men will not submit to a blood-and-iron policy.

"Petty tyrants in the steel corporation are in self-constituted authority over the working classes. They are real kaisers and Von Hindenburgs and hold themselves superior to the government of the people. These tyrants cannot play fast and loose with the lives and conditions of men.

"Mr. Foster has done his work well as an organizer, and there is no question of Mr. Foster's private opinion. He is acceptable now, whatever his writings have been 10 years ago."

LIVING COSTS GO UP.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The cost of 22 of the most essential foods increased 2 per cent in July over June, reports the United States bureau of labor statistics in its Monthly Labor Review, September issue.

"By this increase," it is stated, "July now represents the month when these foods cost more than they have ever cost.

"During the past year, from July, 1918, to July, 1919 the cost for the United States of the 22 articles of food has increased 13 per cent.

"During the six-year period July, 1913, to July, 1919, the retail price of the 22 food articles combined increased 92 per cent. The following articles increased 100 per cent or over: Ham, 101 per cent; sugar, 102 per cent; bacon, 109 per cent; pork chops, 114 per cent; corn meal, 117 per cent; flour, 127 per cent; potatoes, 152 per cent, and lard, 164 per cent."

AFEL RESCUES SAILORS.

Philadelphia, Oct. 18.—Officials of the Hog island ship yards have received a wireless from the Afel, launched last June, that the crew of a British freighter who took to life boats when their ship was sunk have been rescued.

The Afel was named in honor of the American Federation of Labor. Officers of the ship yards have wired President Gompers of the Afel's rescue and called his attention to this statement he made at the boat's launching:

"We wish for the good ship Afel success wherever her destiny may take her and that she may have a long life of usefulness."

WOMEN WORKED LONG HOURS

Austin, Texas, Oct. 18.—Court proceedings have been started by the state labor commissioner against three state insane asylums because women attendants are worked 14 hours a day, in violation of the Texas nine-hour law.

The managers of these institutions blame the legislature's economy program which makes it impossible to secure enough money to comply with the law.

BIG CITY POPULATION.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Thirty-three per cent of the total population of this country live in 227 cities of more than 30,000 population, according to a report by the United States census bureau. In 147 of these cities the excess of expenditures over revenues during the fiscal year 1918 was $3.48 per capita. In the remaining 80 cities the excess was $1.60 per capita.

CANNERY WORKERS WIN.

Everett, Wash., Oct. 18.—After a three-weeks' strike cannery workers employed by the Everett Fruit Products company have received wage increases and improved working conditions. The support accorded these girls was general throughout the trade union movement of the northwest, because of a good publicity campaign regarding working conditions.

FEDERAL PENSION LAW IS "GOOD BUSINESS"

Washington, Oct. 18.—Presenting the question from the standpoint of business and efficiency, R. H. Alcorn, a member of the Machinists' union, showed that the proposed civil service retirement law would save the government millions of dollars. The unionist is chairman of the joint conference on retirement.

At a meeting of the conference he quoted the bureau of efficiency as authority for the statement that the positions of 6,400 employes now qualified for retirement could be filled by 2,200 young men, and that the retirement would mean the saving of the average salary of $1,138 a year for the 4,200 retired whom no one would succeed. This saving would total $4,779,000 for the first year and a proportionate saving for 11 years thereafter, since during the first 12 years the employes would practically be paying the entire annuity pension.

"During the first 12 years, at least," he said, "the government will not be paying a cent on the retirement pension. A higher standard of efficiency may be made, with the humanitarian retirement of the superannuated employes and the induction of more active employes." The speaker said the United States pension office, which is a well organized machine for handling such business as the payment of retirement pensions, is now being faced with dwindling business since the civil war pensions become fewer every year, and that in order to save this organization, rather than establish a new one, the pension office could take up the payment of retirement funds.

LESS WHEAT IS URGED.

Washington, Oct. 18.—While government officials and employers of labor are calling on workers to produce more, that lower prices may result, the United States department of agriculture advises farmers to plant less wheat.

The Weekly News Letter, issued by the department, says:

"More wheat should be sown this fall than was the average in prewar years, but not so much should be sown as was sown last year. This is the outstanding, fall-farming recommendation of the United States department of agriculture, which is watching the changes of world supply and demand while European countries are getting back to normal in food production and thus affecting the markets for American products.

"The suggested acreage for fall-sown wheat is approximately 85 per cent of the area sown in the fall of 1918 and is about the same as was sown in the fall of 1917.

"The suggested area for spring wheat is approximately 88 per cent of the area sown in each of the last two years. The combined acreage of winter and spring wheat suggested for 1920 is about 86 per cent of the acreage sown for the 1919 crop, slightly more than the acreage sown for the bumper crop of 1915 and about 4 per cent less than the area sown for the 1918 crop."

EMPLOYERS ARE BLAMED.

Omaha, Neb., Oct. 18.—While declaring that the organized workers, white and black, will "always work together in harmony and will continue to uplift and improve conditions wherever necessary," the central labor union places the blame for the recent riot in this city on the shoulders of employers who imported southern negroes. The resolution adopted by the union declares:

"We feel that the people of this city should know that the bringing of illiterate and degenerate negroes from the south was brought about by the business interests of this city, and that the responsibility for the outrages and crimes in the past few months should be laid at the doors of those primarily responsible for the presence of such violators of our social and political laws.

"We deplore the lack of co-operation between state and city governments; press reports that the government had in his possession information of the intended riot the Friday preceding the outbreak, and that no steps were taken in Omaha to prevent the lynching with the destruction of public and private property."

CAN'T DEFEND STRIKERS.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 18.—W. M. McNair, an attorney, told the senate committee that is investigating the steel strike, that he was not allowed to see strikers after their arrest by Pittsburg police or to consult with them before their hearing. The police had refused to give him copies of the complaints, he said.

"Why didn't you, as attorney, demand copies of the complaints?" he was asked.

"Well, then, I'd be thrown out of the magistrate's court," McNair replied.

Wholesale arrests of strikers were being made by company watchmen and deputized employes, the attorney said, and they were fined and given jail sentences simply because they were on strike.

MOBBERS ARE PROMINENT.

Douglas, Ariz., Oct. 18.—Over 200 citizens of Bisbee have been bound over for trial at their own request because of connection with the mobbing of 1,200 workers at Bisbee, in July, 1917.

In the list is included the mayor, chief of police, city attorney and police magistrate, leading officials of several mining companies and scores of lawyers, physicians, peace officers and business men.

INSPECT 67,424 PLANTS.

Albany, N. Y., Oct. 18.—The state industrial commission reports that it has made 67,424 regular inspections of factories in this state during the last fiscal year. The number of employes at these plants was 1,384,888. The commission defines a regular inspection as an inspection made at least once each year, of the entire factory building and working conditions.

WANTS 'EM EDUCATED.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Merchants in the nation's capital are objecting to the decision of the District of Columbia minimum wage board that the minimum wage for minors with one year's experience shall be the same as the minimum wage for adults.

The merchants argue that this high minimum will attract children from school, and it should be reduced.

FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Secretary of the Treasury Glass has asked congress to appropriate $20,000,000 to enable the federal board for vocational training to carry out the purpose of the vocational training act.

HELPLESS WORKERS AN INDUSTRIAL EVIL

New York, Oct. 18.—The charge made by steel interests that collective bargaining leads to the so-called "closed" shop, and that this lessens production, was answered by Rev. Dr. Ryan, of the Catholic university, Washington, in a speech in this city. For argument, he assumed this was true, and asked if this is a worse evil than to leave the workers at the mercy of their employers.

The speaker defended the unions' right to insist on collective bargaining, and he recorded a sharp dissent from Judge Gary's views as expressed before the senate investigating committee. The steel official's refusal to arbitrate "moral principles" was declared to be "clearly indefensible."

"Judge Gary strives to evade the criticism that he refuses to employes the right to organize by saying that they may join unions if they like, but that he will not deal with their organization," said the speaker. "This is flippant and cruel. He knows very well that a union which is not permitted to bargain with employers is about as effective and useful for labor as a sewing circle or a tea party.

"Recognition of the right of collective bargaining and more production are two things that are essential to better industrial relations. Other things that are needed are the participation of labor in industrial management and a share in the surplus profits. Both of these latter suggestions will tend to increased production and until these ends are attained labor will commit industrial suicide if it gives up the policy of collective bargaining through the unions."

PLEAD STEEL MEN'S CAUSE.

Lackawanna, N. Y., Oct. 18.—The Daily Journal defends the steel strikers in a reply to the Buffalo News, which "plays up" the testimony of a steel employe before the senate investigating committee, that he earns $17 a day.

The Daily Journal says:

"Now let us suppose that the news writers of Buffalo went on strike. Does anyone believe that if the managing editor, the business manager, and city editor went before a committee and told them that they were very well paid and that the subeditors, cub reporters, copy boys, proof readers, etc., were a lot of bolsheviks and should submit to inhuman treatment just because a few were used well, would you believe it?

"Let this editor come with us incognito (it would have to be incog or the steel plant's private police would club our heads off) and look into the unlighted, unventilated, smoky, dirty quarters that the steel plant rents to human beings.

"Let him be at one of those houses when the poor devil comes home after working 24 hours before an open hearth furnace or over the soaking pits, where it is hotter than hell.

"Our steel workers are striking for the abolition of the 24-hour day. Who dares to refuse that request? They ask for the cessation of the violation of the state law as to one day's rest in seven. Who violates this law by compelling these men to work every day in the month? They want collective bargaining."

CO-OPERATION IN BALKANS.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Co-operative production and distribution in Czechoslovakia, one of the new Balkan republics, is announced by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce.

The central wholesale society at Prague supplies 1,200,000 persons, chiefly workers and officials, and is considering a semi-official establishment. Sales amounted to $8,000,000 in 1918 and $18,000,000 during the first six months of 1919. This society consists of local co-operative societies, each contributing financial aid to the general fund. Members are paid a dividend of 1-2 of 1 per cent on the total amount of goods purchased by them, and non-members are paid a dividend of 1-4 of 1 per cent.

The report issued by the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce also says:

"Workmen as well as farmers are now organizing producing societies to cultivate the lands to be nationalized. As all estates exceeding 618 acres are to be expropriated, the area of lands to be nationalized in the Czechoslovakia republic will approximate 7,400,000 acres. About 150 societies are now being organized, and the number is expected to reach at least 500."

WANT TRUST DISSOLVED.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The government is asking the United States supreme court to smash the steel trust because the purpose of the steel corporation is to eliminate "the possibilities of competition."

Lower courts have ruled that the trust is not a trust in the eyes of the law. The trust claims it never produced more than 51 per cent of the country's steel and that when the hearings in these proceedings were taken it produced less than 45 per cent. Hence the trust has no monopolistic microbes around its person.

CIGAR FIRMS NON-UNION.

Boston, Oct. 18.—The Cigar Makers' union states that the firms of Waitt & Bond, Breslin & Campbell and the C. C. A. Cigar company have moved their factories from this city to New York and New Jersey and are now making cigars by machinery under non-union conditions. Waitt & Bond manufacture the Blackstone cigar.

MAYOR PUTS WAGES UP.

Jersey City, N. J., Oct. 18.—Acting as arbitrator in the dispute between the Atlantic and Pacific Tea company and its organized checkers and loaders, Mayor Hague decided that wages should be advanced $7 a week and hours reduced from 53 1-2 hours a week to 52 1-2 hours. The award dates back to Sept. 1.

BRICK WORKERS MEET.

Brazil, Ind., Oct. 18.—The United Brick and Clay Workers held their annual convention at this clay working center with 106 delegates present. The convention voted to put five additional organizers in the field and raise the per capita tax from 35 to 50 cents a month.

WANT 44-HOUR WEEK.

Seattle, Oct. 18.—Journeymen tailors are on strike to enforce a 44-hour week and the elimination of the contractor or middleman. They also ask for a weekly minimum of $44 for journeymen and $33 for helpers.

FILIPINOS PROTEST AGAINST SLANDERS

Washington, Oct. 18.—A Philippine commission, which is in this city in the interest of independence for the Filipinos, has protested to Secretary of War Baker against "the mass of insulting and false statements about the Filipinos made in articles and editorials published in this country."

With the letter are quotations from editorials written in the same spirit that many editors discuss the steel strike and the trade union movement generally.

The Filipinos protest against such terms as "stunted and inferior mongrel people," "barbarians," "wild," "murderers," "ninety-per-cent illiterates," and other "arguments" that have a familiar sound to the organized workers.

Secretary of War Baker, who is the highest executive official directly in charge of the administration of the Filipinos, is informed that the Filipino commission has "purposely withheld the republication of many American articles in the Philippines in order not to create the ill-feeling which would naturally result from reading them."

The war secretary expressed his regrets over this condition and intimated that the Filipinos are not the only ones who have a kick comin' because of misrepresentation. The secretary included a portion of Gov. Gen. Smith's message to the Philippine legislature in 1909:

"The American who dedicates his energies to ill-timed and intemperate abuse of the Filipinos is sowing the seeds of ill-will from which he can expect nothing other than a rich crop of racial prejudice."

LIVING WAGE COMES FIRST.

Seattle, Oct. 18.—In a letter to managers of department stores in this city, the Retail Clerks' union, which has started an organizing campaign among these employes, says:

"Merit should be rewarded, but any business that does not pay a living wage to those who make that business possible, has no right to exist in a civilized community."

The union submitted a schedule of living costs for women clerks which shows that $19.60 a week is necessary.

"You are in as good a position as we are," says the union, "to verify the truth or falsity of our figures, hence should have no hesitancy in accepting or rejecting our proposal, as you are interested or not in the moral and social welfare of those in your employ.

"In deciding to organize the employes of your establishment the officers of the Retail Clerks' union of Seattle are acting solely by a desire to secure for our fellow clerks the same standard of wages that we have been accorded by the merchants who have already signed our agreements and who have thus shown a disposition to pay a living wage to those in their employ."

CHASING H. C. OF L.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The new wage schedule for postal service employes, now being considered by congress, increases wages about 10 per cent over existing rates and about 35 per cent above rates in 1914. The United States bureau of labor statistics show that living costs have gone up over 90 per cent since 1913.

The proposed increases will amount to $35,000,000; but Postmaster General Burleson suggested that if congress gives him a lump sum of $2,000,000 he will arrange for an adequate wage adjustment and save the taxpayers $33,000,000. Postal employes are not impressed by the postmaster general's plan to stage this piece of wage jugglery and congress has declined the offer.

In discussing wage increases for the postal employes Senator Pomerene acknowledged that their present compensation is not sufficient. "The marvel to me," he said, "is that there have not been more resignations. We cannot get live, alert men unless we give them a living wage."

MEN WILL QUIT WORK.

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, Oct. 18.—Even a labor government that is backed up by the trade union movement is confronted by strikes of its employes.

According to a statement made in parliament by the acting chief secretary, there have been four strikes in the government-owned and operated meat markets during the year. The strikes affected 20 markets and several of them were closed for a number of days because of wage demands.

TRADE UNIONS LIMIT POWER OF EMPLOYERS

Lyon, France, Oct. 18.—Collective bargaining checks the absolutism and autocracy of the employer and is the first step of the workers toward democracy in industry declared the convention of the French federation of labor in its emphatic rejection of a "left wing" plan to ignore collective agreements.

"Every manifestation of the working class leads to collective bargaining," declared the convention. "It is a mistake to regard collective bargaining as a mere joint action of the workers. Collective contracts, whether they are limited to a single establishment or include an entire labor organization, possess a high value. They limit the authority of the employer. They establish new industrial relations upon a basis which encourages effort without deadening energy.

"Although the collective contract may not immediately secure the recognition of all of labor's demands, it does diminish the employers' absolutism by introducing into their establishments an 'organization not subject to employer control and whose object is the emancipation of the workers—the trade union."

In declaring for industrial nationalization, under the control of the producers and consumers, of the "major functions of modern society," the convention declared:

"Recognizing the incapacity of political organisms and the constituent impotency of governmental power over industry, it is not our intention either to augment the attributes of the state or reinforce them, nor to have recourse to a system which subjects basic industries to political management, with its irresponsibility and its inherent waste and its reduction of productive forces to a sort of fiscal monopoly. The known deplorable results of the past, and which continue to manifest themselves even now, are a sufficient condemnation of this system.

"By nationalization we understand the management of national property by the interested parties themselves—producers and consumers, associated."

PLEADS FOR EDUCATION.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Universal education is needed to meet the tests that institutions of government will be subject to during the years of after-war agitation and change, says United States Commissioner of Education Claxton, who declares that intelligent democracy is the only protection against reaction toward autocracy on the one side and class rule, disintegration and anarchy on the other.

"Our American democracy, the hope of the world, demands universal education of the best type—education of all for freedom, initiative, self-restraint, co-operation and obedience to law. In this education the kindergarten has a very important place. Its spirit is that of democracy, and tends toward freedom, initiative, self-restraint, co-operation and obedience to law.

"It is significant that the kindergarten did not receive governmental approval in Germany because of this very fact of its spirit of democracy, and that Froebel looked to America for the attainment of his ideals in education."

"LIVING WAGE" DEFINED.

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, Oct. 18.—A "living wage," which is the basis of the government's arbitration court's law-made wage system, received a jolt from Justice Powers, a member of the court. The court holds that a "living wage" is a wage which will enable a man, his wife and family of three children to live in reasonable comfort. In his comment on this interpretation, Justice Powers said:

"No provision is made for medical fees in special cases, medicines, dentists, special foods for sick children or adults, tobacco, drinks (soft or otherwise), holiday expenditures on excursions, street car fares for wife and children, war contributions, children's toys, stamps or stationery, replacements of crockery or furniture, or insurance of furniture. Nor does it include provision for old age or loss of time through sickness or accident. The list savors more of an existence than living in reasonable comfort."

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 18.—Wages for machine operators has been raised by the Typographical union from $36 a week to $40.50.

STRIP SEAMEN'S LAW BY SHARP PRACTICE

Washington, Oct. 18.—It took 21 years and a Titanic disaster to pass the safety clause of the seaman's law and the house of representatives destroyed this clause in five days and when less than 50 members of the house were present.

About two months ago Congressman Rowe introduced the bill, which provides that the number of able seamen on a vessel shall be reduced from 65 per cent of the crew (the present law) to 40 per cent, and that the three-years' training period before a man is certified as an able seaman shall be reduced to nine months at sea and six weeks in a training vessel. The bill was referred to the house committee on merchant marine and fisheries and that committee referred it to the United States shipping board for an opinion. The shipping board created a commission, consisting of its representatives, vessel owners and President Furuseth of the International Seamen's union and President Brown of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial association, to inquire into the matter. Hearings were held in New York, and the committee divided—the trade unionists opposing the amendments. The unionists continued their opposition before the shipping board and while they were thus engaged the bill was quietly re-introduced in the house and with the ways all greased slipped through on the fifth day after it was presented. The unionists became aware of the plan just prior to the final vote, when it was too late to protest. The bill is now before the senate, and several senators have pledged the unionists that a full opportunity to be heard will be given all interests before any action is taken.

WINNING EIGHT HOURS.

Chicago, Oct. 18.—Organized journeymen tailors are winning their fight for the eight-hour day and they are pleased with the abandonment of the old piece work system, says Wm. Reznicek, assistant secretary of the Journeymen Tailors' union.

"Local unions in a large number of cities," he says, "have made successful settlements for the weekly system and the eight-hour day. In some cities victory was won after the members were out on strike for a week or two, and the employers were forced to recognize our demands. Reports still come in from all directions in favor of the weekly system.

"Since the weekly system was started, we have increased our membership about 6,000 members, and we are reaching the 20,000 mark, the highest in the history of our organization and we are growing stronger every day. This increase is due to the eight-hour movement, which proves that the workers were waiting for it, and ready to join the movement to abolish piece work.

"We will not compromise on our demands and piece work must be abolished now. Labor must be recognized, the working conditions must be improved; living wages must be paid in order to establish industrial justice and harmony in our trade."

WOMEN PAID LOW WAGE.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The District of Columbia minimum wage board finds that 85.3 per cent of the women employed in Washington's hotels and restaurants who receive a straight money wage receive less than $16 a week and 55.7 per cent are paid less than $10 a week. In the restaurants approximately 21 per cent of the waitresses, 46 per cent of the counter girls, 76 per cent of the bus girls, 14 per cent of the cashiers and checkers, 56 per cent of the pantry girls, 75 per cent of the dishwashers, 11 per cent of the cooks, 76 per cent of the kitchen girls and 47 per cent of the miscellaneous employes receive less than a living wage. The only ones that are in a position to receive tips are the waiters, and they are the highest paid in these groups. It was found that no woman employed in apartment houses was receiving $16 a week.

These figures are interesting in view of charges made in congress that Washington is the most expensive place in the country to live in.

EDITOR "STUBS HIS TOE."

Philadelphia, Oct. 18.—In attempting to defend Judge Gary and the steel trust, the editor of the North American, published in this city, made a bad mess.

In a double column, full length editorial, Chairman Fitzpatrick and Secretary Foster of the strikers' committee were condemned and the rough spots in the steel trust's record smoothed out.

The editor was swimming along famously until he neared the end of his article and began discussing the so-called "open" shop. Instead of skating over this thin ice amid a shower of high-sounding terms, he stubbed his toe thusly:

"He (Judge Gary) declares he stands for the 'open' shop, which, he says, rests upon a vital American principle; really he is for the 'closed' shop, as far as union labor is concerned."

COSSACKS RAID CHURCH.

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 18.—At steel strike hearings that were conducted in this city by the United States senate committee on education and labor, Rev. A. Kaznici of St. Michael's church, Braddock, near here, said on Monday, September 21, two state troopers attacked men as they were leaving church. The clergyman protested and the cossacks replied that they were doing their duty in breaking up all gatherings.

ASBESTOS WORKERS UNITE.

New Brunswick, N. J., Oct. 18.—With a membership of 900 the asbestos workers in one plant near here have formed the largest union in this section.

The men attempted to win a strike when they were unorganized and have concluded to come under the banner of the A. F. of L. Prediction is made that the union's membership will jump to 1,200.

IT'S NOT HIGH WAGES HERE.

New York, Oct. 18.—Associated Press correspondence from Santiago, Chile, states that the high cost of living is forcing the government to act and it is proposed to stabilize Chilean currency by adopting the gold standard.

Chileans have been affected by the high cost of living and many public demonstrations have been held.

BUILDERS WANT INCREASE.

Fresno, Cal., Oct. 18.—A general wage increase of $1 a day is the demand of several organized building crafts in this city. The laborers are also associated in this movement and they are asking for a 50-cent increase.

Steel Workers of Britain Have What Americans Ask

Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 18.—British steel workers have the conditions which American steel workers are striking for, and the latter are extended well wishes by the Britishers in a cable received by the steel strikers.

The fraternal message is as follows:

"On behalf of 150,000 British iron and steel workers, who already enjoy all and more than you are asking, and who, through joint representation of employers' and workmen's organizations have the most successful machinery of industrial negotiation in the world, we send warmest wishes for success of your fight on behalf of the workers in American iron and steel industry. By the refusal of the representatives of the steel corporation to submit the dispute to arbitration the corporation stands condemned."

Anti-Strike Laws Weaken Governmental Structure

Washington, Oct. 18.—In discussing the general effect of anti-strike legislation in a letter to Congressman Wood, A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison made the point that the workers would undoubtedly ignore this denial of American rights and that in every such instance governmental structure is weakened.

The unionist called attention to a recent report by the United States bureau of labor statistics on the Canadian "can't-strike" law, which shows that that government has not collected the millions of dollars of fines because workers violated this law.

Reference is also made in the letter to the fine of $500 imposed by an Australian court on Secretary Thomas Walsh of the Australian Seamen's Federated union, who pleaded guilty to the charge of ignoring the compulsory arbitration law of that country. The seamen refused to recognize the arbitration court and Secretary Walsh was placed in jail.

"I am sure," writes Secretary Morrison, "you will appreciate the effect of this decision on the workers of the whole Australian commonwealth in their relation to government as a whole. I am of the firm conviction that the workers of the United States would take similar action if their right to act as free men—as Americans—is ever denied. I call your attention to the far-reaching results of such action, which would affect the entire governmental structure when any group of citizens are forced to ignore a law that denies them a right that has been recognized since the establishment of our country."

URGE LAND FOR EX-SOLDIERS

Washington, Oct. 18.—In response to a request by congress for information on land that is possible for development Secretary of the Interior Lane says in most states there are "great bodies of unused lands, which, with drainage or clearing, can be made available at a comparatively small cost for farms.

"The work (an investigation) has been carried on in the prospect that the congress would see fit to give our returned soldiers and sailors an opportunity to go upon those lands, under proper guidance, and convert them into home farms for themselves. It is a work that must, in my opinion, be undertaken soon if we are to maintain our position as a self-supporting people.

"If the objection is raised that the federal finances will not support the plan proposed, I beg to advise that I am authoritatively informed that there will be no difficulty in selling $500,000,000 in government 3 3-4 per cent non-taxable bonds, which would be sufficient to cover the expenditure contemplated in the Smoot-Mondell bill."

JAILS A DISGRACE.

Philadelphia, Oct. 18.—County jails are a disgrace to this state declared David F. Magee, of Lancaster county, at a meeting of county comissioners, held in this city.

The speaker urged that workhouses and farms be utilized, as the law permits, to give employment to prisoners instead of having them "brood in idleness in the jails."

"Sixty to 70 per cent of the men sentenced to jail," he said, "are not cruel at heart, but the way the county jails are conducted we make criminals of them and make poor citizens of them. Many of them are made confirmed convicts. We should take them in hand, and while some of them are beyond reformation, we should help the 60 or 70 per cent. The only way to do it is by industry."

DEATHS IN COAL MINES.

Washington, Oct. 18.—The United States bureau of mines reports that 200 miners were killed during July, 1919, in and about the coal mines of the country, Kentucky excepted, as compared with 265 in the same states in July, 1918. This shows a fatality decrease of 65.

During the first seven months of 1919, 1,329 men were killed by coal mine accidents in the United States. This figure does not include Kentucky, and is a decrease of 150 fatalities from the record of the previous year.

CAN'T STRIKE IN PERU.

New York, Oct. 18.—An Associated Press dispatch from Lima, Peru, says compulsory arbitration has been established in that country by a governmental decree, that is based on a constitutional amendment.

The order compels workers to notify authorities of their demands, and then an arbitration board will be created within 24 hours.

The board's decisions are final and a failure to comply with same is subject to fine or imprisonment.

DRIVERS RAISE WAGES.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 18.—Organized truck drivers employed by the United Fuel and Food Supply company asked the management if the rumor was true that they were to be discharged. They were told to "get their time." And then the unexpected happened when a score of non-union drivers asked for their "time," also. When the delivery system was completely tied up, the management raised wages $1 a day and now every driver is union.

COOPERS RAISE WAGES.

East Liverpool, Ohio, Oct. 18.—Striking coopers have raised wages 20 per cent, improved working conditions and secured the creation of committees to adjust future disputes. If living costs continue to advance the scale can be reopened on 30 days' notice.

FAVOR ARBITRATION OF BIG STEEL STRIKE

Washington, Oct. 18.—The labor group in the president's industrial conference presented a declaration for the arbitration of the steel strike. The plan was rejected by the committee of 15, composed of an equal number of representatives of labor, the employers and the public. This threw the subject into the conference, where it was being discussed the latter part of the week. The opponents of arbitration have taken advantage of the sentiment created against the steel strikers, who are charged with every thing that will tend to have the people overlook the workers' grievances. Dr. Eliott of Harvard university led that portion of the public group which opposed arbitration. The resolutions follow:

"Whereas the nation-wide strike now in progress in the steel industry of America affects not only the men and women directly concerned, but tends to disturb the relations between employers and workers throughout our industrial life, and

"Whereas this conference is called for the purpose of stabilizing industries and bringing into being a better relation between employers and employes, and

"Whereas organized labor wishes to manifest its sincere and fair desire to prove helpful in immediately adjusting this pending grave industrial conflict; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That each group comprising this conference select two of its number and these six so selected to constitute a committee to which shall be referred existing differences between the workers and employers in the steel industry for adjudication and settlement.

"Pending the findings of this committee, this conference requests the workers involved in this strike to return to work and the employers to reinstate them in their former positions."

SAFETY ZONES FOR BABIES.

Washington, Oct. 18.—Babies who expect to spend the first year of life in a city should select a "safety zone," is the advice of the United States children's bureau in its report on "Infant Mortality in Saginaw, Mich."

The bureau's investigation shows that the essentials of a safety zone for babies are: Living wage for the father, mothers must not be employed for a year prior or a year after childbirth, both parents must be able to read and write, and the babies must be properly housed.

In the ward in Saginaw, where the least favorable conditions prevailed, one baby out of every six died before he was a year old, as compared with one out of every 34 in the best residential wards. In the ward having the highest infant mortality a majority of the fathers had very small wages. There were several wards where poor drainage, unsanitary disposition of garbage and refuse, outdoor toilets, shallow drinking water and dwellings which lacked sewer connection rendered the section unsafe for babies.

It is only when the father's earnings were small that the Saginaw mothers went out to work. The infant mortality rate for the babies of working mothers was 122.7, as compared with 78.3 for those whose mothers were not gainfully employed. A low income also means that the mother, as a rule, does not receive proper care before the baby is born. In Saginaw the deaths of two-thirds of the babies were due primarily to prenatal causes.

ROCK PILE FOR GOUGERS.

Washington, Oct. 18.—At a meeting of co-ops, employed in the war department Congressman Kahn of California expressed little patience with present moves against the profiteer. The western law-maker would solve the problem by putting 'em on the rock pile.

Reports showed that these employes are dealing old H. C. of L. some hard wallops, and save from 25 to 50 per cent on their purchases. There are 700 members in this movement. The war department furnishes a storeroom rent free. A complete line of groceries, shoes and clothing is handled and a made-to-order department for men's and women's suits is maintained. Prices are wholesale prices plus the wages paid clerks.

At the meeting an official of the quartermaster's department of the army stated that razor-blades are retailed by merchants for $1 a dozen and the quartermaster's commissary sells them for 30 cents a dozen. Other instances of economy through co-op buying were cited.

TO ENFORCE TRAINING.

New York, Oct. 18.—Colleges and universities have been notified that the Slater law, which provides for compulsory military training in this state for all boys between the ages of 16 and 19, will be rigorously enforced. No boy will escape merely because he is a student at a college. Most of the city colleges, it is stated, were beginning to look upon the law as a "dead letter," but they are now called upon to furnish a complete list of all students. Representatives of the New York military training commission announce that the necessary steps will be taken to see that the compulsory training is carried out, either by the college authorities or by instructors of the commission.

STATE UNION CONVENES.

Zanesville, Ohio, Oct. 18.—The annual convention of the Ohio federation of labor convened in this city with 600 delegates in attendance. Secretary-Treasurer Donnelly reported that there are 1,024 organizations affiliated, and $9,000 is in the treasury. Several years ago, when it was proposed to put the secretary on a salary and have him devote his entire time to the business of the federation, it was declared that the organization "could not afford it," and that the $700 then in the treasury must be husbanded for an emergency.

ASBESTOS WORKERS MEET.

Detroit, Mich., Oct. 18.—At the convention of the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers officers reported that the membership has increased during the past year and substantial wage increases and working conditions have been secured.

METAL MINERS GAIN.

Virginia City, Nev., Oct. 18.—Metal mine operators of this county have signed a union-shop agreement with affiliates of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. A flat rate of $5 for an eight-hour day will be paid underground workers.

POSITIONS OF ORGANIZED LABOR AND EMPLOYERS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT'S INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE

WHAT LABOR FAVORS.

Right to organize, to bargain collectively and to be represented by those whom the workers select. The same right is accorded employers.

Free speech, press and assemblage, with responsibility for utterances and actions.

Limit the hours of labor to eight hours. One day rest in seven, preferably Sunday. Saturday half holiday to be encouraged.

Overtime should be discouraged, but when absolutely necessary should be paid for at not less than time and one-half.

Right of all wage earners to a living wage which "shall insure the workers and their families to live in health and comfort in accordance with the concepts and standards of American life."

Women should receive the same pay as men for equal work performed.

Women should not be permitted to do work disproportionate to their strength or which tends to impair their potential motherhood.

To assure continuously improved industrial relations between employer and employed a method should be provided for the systematic review of industrial relations and conditions by those directly concerned in each industry.

To this end a national conference board should be established between the organized workers and associated employers in each industry.

The federal government, through its department of labor, should encourage and promote the formation of these national conference boards, which would counsel and advise with the government in all industrial matters where needful legislation is required.

Prohibit immigration for a period of at least two years after peace shall have been declared.

WHAT EMPLOYERS FAVOR.

Efficiency in production.

Each individual establishment rather than the industry as a whole should, as far as practicable, be considered the unit of production and of mutual interest on the part of employer and employed. "By experimentation and adaptation" plans should be worked out for the co-operation of employer and employed.

(This means that each plant would negotiate with its workers without regard to other plants and a union would be split into shop units.)

Conditions of labor should be as safe and as satisfactory to the workers "as the nature of the business reasonably permits."

Wages should provide a living standard and be based on the workers' productive efforts, his value and the length of his service.

A study of bonus payments, profit sharing and stock ownership is recommended.

Women should be paid the same wage as men when they do work equal to men.

Hours of labor should be consistent with the health of the worker. Overtime should be avoided and one day rest in seven is favored. (No mention of eight-hour day.)

Each establishment should provide means to settle disputes with its employes. The management must not be interfered with in the exercise of its "essential function of judgment and direction." (No provision is made for arbitration.)

Trade unions should be incorporated and held responsible for its actions and that of its agents.

The "open" shop. Right to strike in private industry. Opposition to strike in public utilities, to the sympathetic strike and the boycott.

Vocational education.